



WAHIAWA NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 26

c/o NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION • 530 SOUTH KING STREET ROOM 400 • HONOLULU, HAWAII, 96813
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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

MONDAY, JULY 17, 2006

HELEMANO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CAFETERIA

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Ben Acohido called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. A quorum was not present.

Chair Acohido announced due to a lack of quorum this will be an informational meeting. Also, Irwin Yamamoto has moved to Kapolei and has submitted his letter of resignation from the Board.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ben Acohido, Sheri Bentley, Kathy Masunaga, Jyun Yamamoto.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Burt Iwata (excused), Robert Kent (excused), Silvia Koch (excused), Mary Jane Lee (excused).

GUESTS: Eugene Lee (Mayor's Representative), Brandon Mitsuda (Councilmember Donovan Dela Cruz's office), Zeny Muyot (Congressman Ed Case's office), Thomas Arizumi (Governor's Representative), Senator Robert Bunda, Gerald Ellamar (Representative Marcus Oshiro's office), Captain Richard Ochoa (HFD), Captain Ed Nishi and Lt. Doug Beerman (HPD), Duke Chung (BWS), Geri Tramontano (Wahiawa Satellite City Hall), Captain Jim Donovan, CW Clifton Jenkins and CMDCM Mike Dollen (NCTAMS PAC), Lt. Barbara Metz (U.S. Navy Region Hawai'i), Gary Yamagata (NAVFAC PAC), Major P. Campbell and Phillip Hughes (U.S. Army), Rod Ohira (Honolulu Advertiser), Alena Pule (Whitmore Community Association), John Hergenrader, Malerie Ibarra, Dwayne Kojima and Carlos Pallares (Wahiawa Community School), Lei Furukawa (University of Phoenix), Kim Rhoton (WFI), Larry Gilmore, Mr. & Mrs. Herman Hernaez, Ellen Hyer, Nestor Muyot, Daniel Neyer, Tom Pule, Steve J. Rodrigues (Neighborhood Commission Office Staff).

ELECTION OF OFFICERS 2006-2007 (1 Year Term) – Deferred due to a lack of quorum.

APPROVAL OF THE MAY 15 2006 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES: Deferred due to a lack of quorum.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Chair Acohido read the Financial Statement for the month of June. The Operating Account expenses were \$31.52, leaving a balance of \$881.97. The Publicity Account did not incur any expenses, leaving the balance at \$1,291.09. The Refreshment Account did not incur any expenses, leaving the balance at \$120.00.

FIRST RESPONDERS – Reports and Concerns:

Honolulu Fire Department (HFD) – No representative was available at this time, but arrived later in the meeting to give a report.

Honolulu Police Department (HPD) – No representative was available at this time, but arrived later in the meeting to give a report.

Emergency Medical Service (EMS) – No report or representative was available.

U.S. Army – Schofield Barracks – Major P. Campbell reported: 1) Stryker Brigade vehicles have arrived in the Islands. More vehicles are to come. 2) The 2nd Brigade will be deploying in a few months to the Middle East. 3) He introduced Rear Attachment Command Phillip Hughes. Hughes introduced himself. He will be representing the Army for the next 12 months.

Chair Acohido welcomed Hughes.

U.S. Navy – NCTAMS PAC – No representative was available at this time, but arrived later in the meeting to give a report.



RESIDENTS' CONCERNS:

Traffic Calming Needed – Senator Bunda, speaking as a resident of Wahiawa and Royal Palm Drive, said as a result of improvements at Royal Palm Drive and Glen Avenue, motorists are speeding and traffic has increased. He suggested installing traffic calming measures (i.e. stop sign, traffic signal, etc.). Another nuisance is the loud thumping music from passing motorists, especially late at night. Masunaga mentioned kids “drift” their cars at the top of Royal Palm Drive. Chair Acohido would notify City Department of Transportation Services (DTS).

The agenda was taken out of order. There were no objections.

FIRST RESPONDERS – Reports and Concerns, Continued:

Honolulu Fire Department (HFD) – Captain Richard Ochoa reported: 1) For the month of June, the Wahiawa Fire Station responded to 15 fires and 50 medical emergencies. 2) Fire Safety Tip: “Take the time to childproof your home, especially since keiki are on summer vacation. Check for potentially dangerous situations (i.e. electrical shock, accidental falls, or poisoning from medications, cleaning fluids, and houseplants). Keep matches and lighters in a safe place and out of the reach of small children.”

Honolulu Police Department (HPD) – Captain Ed Nishi reported: 1) The statistics in District 2 for the month of June were: 5 burglaries, 14 thefts from vehicles, 16 UEMV (unauthorized entry into a motor vehicle), and 27 thefts. 2) In this police district, 106 officers are responsible for 27 square miles (which includes Wahiawa, Mililani, Mililani Mauka, Haleiwa to Kaena Point). Officers do the best they can. They receive tremendous support from the military and the community. Beginning August 13, HPD will be switching to a different shift schedule “5-9 program”. There now will be three watches. 3) If anyone has any concerns regarding traffic, etc, please call 911 for a quicker response. When you write a letter to the Governor, Mayor or Chief of Police, the mail is forwarded to him and then he responds (which ends up takes longer).

Concerns and comments followed:

- 1) Senator Bunda inquired about the thefts. Captain Nishi stated the spike in thefts, which is normal during the summer months, are due to kids being out of school. A tremendous amount of tourists are going to Haleiwa and their vehicles are being broken into. He encouraged everyone to call 911 if you witness any suspicious vehicle or activity. In addition, he encourages his officers to get out of their patrol cars and say hello to the residents.
- 2) Masunaga said it would be helpful if the City and/or State appropriates funds for close circuit televisions/cameras to monitor high-crime areas (especially since this district is so vast). Some of the break-ins and thefts could be addressed by these cameras (i.e. Chinatown). Captain Nishi stated they do have cameras in certain areas.
- 3) Chair Acohido announced: a) There is a movement to establish more neighborhood watch groups. He encouraged interested parties to contact WCBA; b) HPD has a Citizen Policy Academy that citizens can attend. Anyone interested in these programs, please contact HPD Public Relations.
- 4) Resident Larry Gilmore had concerns regarding a male homeless individual standing on the Toth Bridge and cursing out loud. Gilmore has young children and is concerned about their safety. Captain Nishi stated homeless is a sensitive issue. The majority of the homeless are in that predicament because they are not taking their medication. There is no law against being homeless – there is a fine line between civil rights and someone shouting. The police chaplain (Rev. Smith) does a fine job with the homeless. If they are breaking the law, then call 911. Chair Acohido mentioned this has been an ongoing issue for a number of years. The State conducts a sweep of the area, but the homeless come right back. It's a sensitive issue and one that won't be solved overnight. He asked Gilmore to work with the Board.

U.S. Navy – NCTAMS PAC – Captain Jim Donovan reported: 1) He has been in command for NCTAMS PAC for one whole year. 2) After the last Neighborhood Board meeting, he informed his sailors that they are the members of the neighborhood watch for Whitmore and NCTAMS PAC. If they see any graffiti or anything suspicious, they are asked to call 911. 3) NCTAMS PAC will take sponsorship of the “Welcome to Whitmore” sign. 4) On June 2, NCTAMS PAC sailors hosted the annual NCTAMS PAC Day event for the graduating 5th graders of Helemano

Elementary School. Events included bowling, mini-golf and swimming with a lunch served at the baseball field. More than 80 children and 10 chaperones participated. 5) NCTAMS PAC was honored to bid farewell to Command Master Chief Scott Teves, who retired in June 30 after 30 years of honorable Naval Service. He introduced his replacement CMDMC Mike Dollen.

U.S. Army, Continued – Resident Ellen Hyer had two concerns regarding the graveyard at Schofield: 1) No leis were placed on the graves for Memorial Day. 2) The water faucet for people to use is on ground level and needs to be set higher so people don't have to bend down. She asked the Army contact Steve Santiago, who works for the City. Chair Acohido noted that customarily leis and flags are placed on graves for Memorial Day and Veterans Day. Hyer indicated there were flags on the graves for Memorial Day.

The agenda resumed regular order.

PRESENTATIONS:

Status of Hawai'i Regional Security Operations Center (HRSOC) Project – Gary Yamagata, representing NAVFAC PAC, stated the project is currently in the procurement phase. They should have a contract in place by fall 2006. Upon relocation from Kunia, the new facility complex will be named National Security Agency/Central Security Service Hawai'i (NSA/CSS Hawai'i). The complex will be located on the 700-acre NCTAMS PAC site. The two-story main building will be approximately 420,000 square-feet and 56-feet high. There will also be several adjacent single-story buildings for operational and personnel support functions spread across the site. Access to the new facility will be via a new 8,000-foot long roadway connecting to Whitmore Avenue, between Kamehameha Highway and Whitmore Village. The project will take three years to complete and occupancy is expected 2011-2012. During construction, the contractor will bus its employees onto the base. Hours of construction are 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. They will try to limit delays.

Concerns and comments followed:

- 1) Masunaga inquired about the parking lot. Yamagata stated it would be located to the east and it would be able to accommodate 1,700 vehicles.
- 2) Yamagata stated there are issues with connecting to Kamehameha Highway. It has been discussed with the State Department of Transportation (DOT). They are required to do a post-occupancy survey after the road is completed, if it isn't done, then they will be required to do mitigation action. Improvements to Whitmore Avenue will include construction of another lane. There will be significant improvements in the area. They will need to coordinate with DOT. He will come back before the Board to give an update on their construction schedule.
- 3) Masunaga mentioned that Captain Donovan said that the galley (kitchen) would be closed. Yamagata confirmed that although there would be no galley there will be vendors. Chair Acohido said sailors are welcome to eat in Wahiawa.
- 4) Alena Pule, President of the Whitmore Community Association, asked when construction would begin. Yamagata answered December 2006/January 2007 weather permitting.

University of Phoenix Mililani Campus – Lei Furukawa distributed information on the University of Phoenix Mililani Campus. In addition, she invited everyone to their open house on August 9, Town Center of Mililani, Suite E1, 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Students obtain their degrees in 18 months to three years. Classes are held one night per week. They have campuses across the nation, which allows military personnel to transfer their credits. For more information, please contact her at 536-2686, ext. 35180 or 285-1087, or email at LeiFurukawa@phoenix.edu.

CORRESPONDENCE: Chair Acohido circulated the Board's correspondence. One correspondence of note is a letter to Melvin Kaku, Director of DTS, from Councilmember Dela Cruz regarding traffic improvements at Royal Palm Drive.

GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND COMMUNITY GROUP REPRESENTATIVES:

Wahiawa Community Business Association (WCBA) – No report or representative was available.

Mayor's Representative – Eugene Lee reported: 1) Follow-up items: a) The City is partnering with the state, federal, HPD, HFD, EMS, and Civil Defense to plan and develop a Joint Traffic Management Center. It will be located at the Alapai Street transit lot. b) The Mayor has no comment on the Turtle Bay Resort issue. It's a liability issue. 2) He circulated a list of Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) to the Board. 3) The Honolulu Municipal Building (HMB) and the Civic Center Grounds will be renamed after former Mayor Frank Fasi on July 26 at 10:00 a.m. Everyone is invited to attend the ceremony.

Concerns and comments followed:

- 1) Masunaga congratulated Lee on being selected as the new Director of the Department of Planning and Permitting (DPP). (A round of applause was given at this time). Lee, who was raised in Wahiawa and graduated from Leilehua High School, said the confirmation process begins on Wednesday.
- 2) Senator Bunda had concerns about the condition of the road and sidewalks on California Avenue. Bentley mentioned the condition of the sidewalks makes it very difficult for her to maneuver her personal scooter. Lee indicated the sidewalks fall under the Department of Facility Maintenance (DFM) and every year they submit their budget request for sidewalks, they are not funded.
- 3) Masunaga inquired as to the status of Councilmember Tam's resolution regarding modified sidewalks standards for residential and rural areas. Lee will follow-up.
- 4) There was lengthy discussion on the homeless issue. Some of the discussion included: a) Masunaga had concerns that police don't want to do anything with the homeless living under the bridge since it's on State land. She mentioned Act 51, in which if the homeless returned they would be arrested, but the Legislature got rid of the Act. Senator Bunda clarified that the Act is still on the books. b) Lee said homeless is a very complex issue. It's a problem affecting the city, state and caregivers. The Mayor has stated that the responsibility falls under the state. c) Rev. Jack Smith noted the homeless population is geographically scattered throughout Wahiawa. There are approximately 20 individuals, no children, living near the H-2 off-ramp in the trees (there are no homeless under the bridge). The numbers are going down. At least two to three times per week he visits them. He has relocated some of the homeless to the mainland; some are in rehab. There are two married couples and two new faces. Their families visit them. The land is owned by DOT and the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR). He shared a letter with the homeless from Councilmember Dela Cruz and some broke down and wept. We have a problem and need to solve it. Chair Acohido thanked Rev. Smith for his years of effort to reduce the homeless population. d) Senator Bunda also commended Rev. Smith. He's concerned that Wahiawa is getting a bad reputation and credibility problem. It's a complicated problem and it's not just a state problem, but a joint problem (i.e. city and state problem). He has seen children at the site, and is concerned about the health and safety of the residents of Wahiawa.

Councilmember Donovan Dela Cruz – Brandon Mitsuda circulated Council Chair Dela Cruz's monthly report and highlighted the following: 1) Council Chair Dela Cruz sends his regrets. 2) If anyone has any questions, please call 527-5710. 3) He circulated a list of CIP items for Wahiawa and Whitmore for Fiscal Year 2007. 4) Another document he circulated was an application form for "Real Property Tax Credit for Homeowners". 5) He reported on RISR's (Request for Investigation and Service Report) for Wahiawa and Whitmore.

Concerns and comments followed:

- 1) Masunaga inquired about the \$200 property tax credit. Mitsuda said all homeowners qualify for this credit for this tax year only. Other homeowners may qualify for additional credits for which they must apply.
- 2) Yamamoto expressed concerns regarding the drainage inlet at the intersection of Iliwai Drive and California Avenue. The bars of the grating were bent and spread apart, thereby posing a danger to school kids possibly getting their legs caught. Mitsuda will follow-up.

Governor's Representative – Thomas Arizumi circulated the "Governor's Update" and follow-up concerns report. In addition, he highlighted the following: 1) Follow-up items: a) DOT will issue a work order for reflectors on Kamehameha Highway, near Waikakalau; b) The albizzia trees are not in the state's right-of-way. They do not know who is the property owner; c) The landscape contractor will be notified to take care of the vegetation near the stadium; d) DOT will check on the status of a State right-of-way to erect a "Welcome to Whitmore" sign. 2) The Governor takes the homeless issue very seriously. On behalf of the Governor, he would like to thank Rev. Smith for his efforts with the homeless. There are three types of homeless: a) those who have a job but can't afford to pay rent; b) those who are mentally-challenged; c) drug users. Service agencies are assisting. As mentioned by previous speakers, it's a very complicated problem that won't be solved overnight. He will follow-up.

Concerns and comments followed:

- 1) Masunaga said if the State could find a building to house the homeless, then DLNR and DOT could keep their land pristine. Arizumi indicated he would forward the suggestions to Larry Lau (the regular Governor's representative).
- 2) Masunaga had concerns about a shed built by a homeless person on Center Street on state property that is falling apart. Arizumi will follow-up.

Congressman Ed Case – Zeny Muyot reported Congressman Case is wrapping up his Summer Talk Story series in the next three weeks on the Neighbor Islands.

Senator Robert Bunda – Senator Bunda reminded everyone that the filing deadline to become a candidate is July 25. He encouraged those seeking elective office to submit their papers.

Concerns and comments followed:

- 1) Masunaga inquired about Act 51. Senator Bunda stated Act 51 was a bill he introduced as a result of squatters at Mokuleia Beach. The original bill would allow police to arrest individuals who returned a second and third time. The ACLU took objections to the bill and as a result the bill was amended.
- 2) Yamamoto asked Senator Bunda's position regarding a homeless shelter in Wahiawa. Senator Bunda answered he would try to find a common place, a better place than Wahiawa. The only place the homeless can go is to IHS, but it's full and there is a waiting list. He put in \$1 million into this issue but the money didn't go far.

Representative Marcus Oshiro – Gerald Ellamar reported: 1) Representative Oshiro sends his regrets. 2) The Representative's newsletter will be sent out shortly. 3) Representative Oshiro is sponsoring a community meeting titled "Everything You Wanted to Know about Disaster Planning & Avian Flu, But Were Afraid to Ask" on July 26, Wahiawa District Park 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

Board of Water Supply (BWS) – Duke Chung reported: 1) There were no main breaks for the month of June in the Wahiawa/Whitmore area. 2) Water projects in the district: a) California Avenue Water System Improvements Part II & III (Phase I) – 19.7% complete. The contractor currently has three working crews on the project. b) The Wahiawa-Whitmore Project just started working again on July 10. Lake Wilson is low now.

Wahiawa Action Initiative (WAI) – No report or representative was available.

Wahiawa Satellite City Hall – Geri Tramontano reported: 1) The Wahiawa Satellite City Hall is open Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. 2) As of July 5th, the satellite city halls located in the malls (i.e. Pearlridge, Windward and Ala Moana) will be closing at 6:45 p.m. on Wednesdays. 3) They issue camping permits for city parks. Every Thursday morning, there is a group of homeless individuals waiting on their doorstep for a camping permit. There are only seven camp sites at Kaiaka Beach Park; so it is a problem on three-day weekends when families also want to obtain a permit.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Status of Ku Tree Reservoir Project – Army Corps of Engineers Report – Chair Acohido gave the Army Corps of Engineers Report for the Ku Tree Reservoir project to Board member Masunaga.

Re-Designation to “Wahiawa-Whitmore Neighborhood Board No. 26” – Deferred.

Refreshment Expenses for April 27, 2006 Aloha Event for 25th Infantry – Deferred.

NEW BUSINESS:

Installation of 60-Foot Wireless Antenna – Kimberly Rhoton of WFI, asked to defer this item of business until next month's meeting because she has to give advance notice to area homeowners. T-Mobile wants to install a 60-foot wireless antenna at Fred Wright Park.

Agenda for Next Regular Meeting – Chair Acohido said next month's agenda will include election of officers and filling of one Board vacancy. Masunaga volunteered to chair the Nominating Committee for the Board vacancy.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Masunaga announced: 1) “Portraits in Pine – An Era Ends”, oil paintings by Susie Anderson, will be displayed at The Gallery at Ward Center on July 29 through August 24, 2006. 2) WCBA will be hosting an Artfest beginning September 17 and continuing the third Saturday of each month at the Wahiawa Civic Center. Local artists will display their works that will be available for sale. It will be similar to the Zoo Art Fence in Waikiki. WCBA hopes to promote Wahiawa through this monthly event.

ADJOURNMENT: 8:58 p.m.

Submitted:

Steve J. Rodrigues,
Neighborhood Assistant